Application No.: 09/417,985 Docket No.: JCLA5185

## REMARKS

### Present Status of the Application

Claims 1-14 are pending. The Office Action rejected presently pending claims 1, 6-8, 13

and 14. Specifically, the Office Action rejected claims 1, 6-8, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

as being anticipated by Hashimoto et al., US Patent Application Number US2002/0012453 A1.

Claims 2-5 and 9-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected independent claim.

Claims 1-14 remain pending in the present application and reconsideration is respectfully

requested.

**Concerning examiner's remarks on the previous response to the rejection of claim 1 and**

**the rejection of claim 8**

The Examiner opined that Hashimoto et al. discloses activating the scanner driver to

perform an image-enhancement process on the primitive scanned image to thereby obtain a

quality-enhanced image, as stated in claims 1 and 8 of the present invention. Applicants

respectfully disagree.

The following is a passage from Hashimoto et al. paragraph 323, lines 14-18.

*"The scanner control program 85 interprets the scanner command C3 and*

*supplies a scanner condition set command C4 to the device driver 86 to*

*drive the designated scanner. The scanner condition set command is for*

*setting conditions of the scanner such as the resolution."*

Applicants would like to point out specifically that the scanner condition set command is for

setting conditions of the scanner in Hashimoto et al., not the image-enhancement process of the

present invention. The setting-selection of the scan process is conducted prior to the image

scan, whereas the image-enhancement process is applied after the image is obtained. Therefore,

the above passage from Hashimoto et al. does not disclose the "activating the scanner driver to

perform an image-enhancement process on the primitive scanned image to thereby obtain a

quality-image" clause of claims 1 and 8.

Hashimoto et al. discloses an image-processing step performed on the image data stored in

the band memory, in paragraph 323, lines 30-32. This image process, however, is performed on

the final image rather than to enhance the image to create a final image. This is supported by

the last sentence of paragraph 323 of Hashimoto et al., "For example, the scanner control

program 85 compresses the image data by using a JPEG compression board and plots the

compressed data into a buffer area H." Clearly, Hashimoto et al. discloses a final image

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processing which changes the format of the image rather than to change the image itself. Hence,

Applicants assert that Hashimoto et al. does not disclose the image-enhancement feature of the

present invention. Reconsideration of the rejections to claims 1 and 8 is therefore respectfully

requested.


**Concerning the rejection to claims 6, 7, 13, and 14**

As Applicants assert that independent claims 1 and 8 are indeed patentable, it is believed

that as further limitations upon the original base claim, claims 6, 7, 13, and 14 are also in

condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.


**Response to the Objection to Claims 2-5 and 9-12**

Applicants request reconsideration of the objection to claims 2-5 and 9-12, as claims 1 and

8 contain a novel feature not disclosed in Hashimoto et al.

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## CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and re-examination of pending claims 1-14. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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